

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1897.

THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COMBINED TELEGRAPHIC-NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE UNITED PRESS, THE WESTERN ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATED PRESS, AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

A NEW CLUB NEEDED.

There is need of another club here—a Public-Spirit Club; an organization into which shall be gathered all of the men of Richmond and Manchester who believe that these two cities have a great future, if we prepare to take proper advantage of our situation and opportunities.

No man should be eligible to membership in this club who does not possess enthusiasm and energy, and who is not willing to spend some of his time or means to promote the establishment of new industries here. Croakers should be severely black-balled. The door should be shut in the face of those who make it a practice to compare Richmond with other cities, and always to the disadvantage of Richmond. Talkers—three-minute talkers—of the right sort should be invited in; but the main dependence of the club should be upon its workers—the members who are willing to bend themselves down to the routine of committee work, and to out-door canvassing, if necessary. This is the sort of work that tells most, though the workers may never receive from the public the recognition they deserve.

Whether the organization be part and parcel of our admirable Chamber of Commerce, or a separate organization, is not so material as that it be filled with enthusiasm and determination to make the year 1897 memorable in Richmond's industrial life.

Year in and year out we have talked and talked, and theorized and theorized. Now the time has come for energetic action. We shall need a capital stock of \$100,000, but if we proceed wisely and energetically we can obtain it in \$100, \$200, and \$500 subscriptions, payable in easy installments.

With this capital the club or Chamber (or whatever you may choose to call it) may at once set about securing new industries here. It will be in its power to decide what is best for us to do about utilizing our water-power. It may investigate the practicability of establishing a great electric-power plant between the Three-Mile Locks and Bostons Dam. If we could offer electric power to manufacturers upon very low terms, we should certainly be able to attract the attention of many men of enterprise.

Of course, the Dispatch wishes to bring outside capital here, but we must "show our money," as the saying is, before others will show theirs. There is an abundance of money here to make a start—notwithstanding the losses that our capitalists have met with in their investments in other cities. When we show our faith in our city, others will be ready enough to come to our aid.

"Our city's needs," etc., have been fully, ably, earnestly, and repeatedly discussed. Action, action, ACTION is now what is wanted. While we have been talking rival cities have been working. We must organize now to keep all the business we have, and to bring new business here.

"Good times" for us may never come unless we do so. And it is to manufacturers chiefly that we must look to give value to our property, and to fill the tills of our merchants and make this a highly prosperous community.

Organize the Public-Spirit Club.

pronouncing the central one Virgil composing the "Aeneid." The poet is represented clad in an ample white toga with a blue border, and on his knees rests an open roll of papyrus, on which appears the eighth verse of the first book of the "Aeneid." On his right the muse of history interprets a manuscript to him, and on the left the muse of tragedy is listening. The latter wears a fringed theatre dress, girl high up at a cincture, and her left arm holds up a tragic mask.

The oldest representations of Virgil are miniatures, all of which, it is argued, derive from a common source, but no authentic portrait of the poet is known to exist. The present miniature, like these miniatures, shows him with hair short and without beard, and M. Boller holds the opinion that the find is probably the reproduction of some celebrated work, one of the portraits, perhaps, to which Martial refers. This opinion, we are told, carries great weight.

THE GAS-WORKS.

Richmond ought to hold on to her gas-works. Under no circumstances now conceivable should she part with them. That the management of the gas-works is superintended by costly and disreputable men cannot be denied; but it furnishes no sufficient reason for Richmond's surrender of the works. Private corporations, supervised by boards of directors composed of thorough business-men, have not been exempt from such experiences as ours. Defalcations occur in all classes of business. Besides, our works are under a thoroughly trustworthy and capable management, and one that is not in reforming abuses.

Talk about the "influence" that our gas-works men exercise in local politics here, why it is as nothing to the influence that the lawyers might, and probably would, acquire over the City Council.

Talk about the high wages that we pay the laborers at the gas-works; we would rather continue this than have the lowest and most servile class of laborers employed there to make big dividends, a large part of which we doubt would be sent north.

Talk about getting "better gas" from private works than from city works, why who has only to read the northern papers to see how universally denounced is the quality of gas furnished by lessees and private companies.

Furthermore, we get our gas at as low a price as it is sold by gas companies in cities situated about as Richmond is, and the works pay our city reasonable interest upon the amount of money invested therein.

At this very time, in the city of New York, the popular indignation against the methods of the gas companies there runs as high that there is a general demand that the city shall establish and operate its own plant. Several of the most progressive cities of England and Scotland that had parted with the ownership of their gas-works have now bought their works back and are operating them upon municipal account and with much profit.

The tendency of the times is in favor of municipal ownership and management, rather than capitalist ownership or management, of gas- and water-works. Indeed, some cities have extended this theory to include street railways, also, as one of the natural monopolies. So, it would not be preposterous, but retrogression, if Richmond should part wholly or partly with the control of her gas- or water-works, and should put them in the hands of capitalists—knowing that though some of the shares of stock might be held here to-day, they might all be held in the North or in Europe to-morrow.

We think our gas-works we should get the works out of politics would be vastly mistaken. The experience of many cities in this country is that some of the big men in the gas companies figure, and that upon occasions they have not hesitated to debauch councilmen and other officials to further money-making schemes of their own. We have no reason to expect that Richmond would be exempt from this danger. No matter how honorable and amiable might be the men into whose hands the works might pass first, it might be expected, or, at least, feared, that here, as elsewhere, dangerous men would finally acquire control. Therefore, we urge Richmond now as we have always done, to hold on to her gas-works.

INTERPRETING WAGNER.

The New York musical critics are raving over M. Jean de Reszka's Siegfried. It is declared that in this great tenor Wagner has found a new interpreter—one whose mission is to show that Wagner's tenor roles can be sung with beauty of tone as well as fidelity to poetic accent, and dramatic expression. The enthusiastic critic of the Evening Post believes that could Voltaire have heard de Reszka's Siegfried he would have exclaimed, "inspired as a tenor" instead of "stupid as a tenor," and that Wagner would have found in the Polish lyric artist his ideal fully realized. Stress is laid on the fact that de Reszka's enunciation in Siegfried, and the other Wagner tenor roles he has essayed, is so clear as to render libretto reading superfluous, and there is unanimous concurrence as to the perfect work of M. de Reszka as a conductor.

From nothing has Wagner suffered more than from unintelligent orchestral conducting and vocal slurring. In such enunciation as is attributed to de Reszka, and in such general orchestral phrasing, and distinct and thoroughly controlled pulsation of sound waves as the critiques in the New York papers lead us to believe respond to the leadership of M. de Reszka, we have the basic essentials not only to a true interpretation, but a true appreciation, by an audience, of Wagner. When added to this we have dramatic intensity and thorough cultivation of naturally fine voice equal to the demands of the score, Wagner is no longer "all confusion," as is often asserted even by lovers of music who have never heard him except where one or more of the essentials were lacking. On the contrary, he not only becomes intelligible and appeals to our intellect and our imagination with a force unequalled by that of any other composer, but sweeps the musical chords of our nature with an echo-producing hand that is possessed by no other master.

It is reported from Chicago that a trust, including nearly every cereal mill in the United States, has been formed there. How the trusts will plume themselves, and wax fat and grow haughty, under the reign of McKinleyism, now to ensue!

Cubans laugh at the alleged reforms proposed by Spain, saying they are no more than were offered them two years ago. They are not fighting for Spanish reforms now, they say, but for liberty.

WHY THE VOTES DIFFERED.

The Dispatch has been queried several times to explain why some of the Democratic electors are credited with less votes than others, though all the voters voted (nominally) for Bryan and Sewall, and not for the electors. But, to conform to the laws of the United States and Virginia, the returns of the election had to be made as if each of the Democratic electors had received so many votes. In the returns Bryan and Sewall were ignored. If all these returns of the judges and commissioners of election had been correctly made, unquestionably, each elector would have been credited with exactly the number of votes credited to the other electors; but, unfortunately, some election officials were careless in making out their certificates and abstracts. John Smith, for instance, might have been credited with the votes of one county under the name of John Smith, and in another county under the name of J. Smith. These votes the State Board of Canvassers held could not be segregated.

To understand the board's position, it is only necessary to bear in mind the fact that the duties of the State Canvassing Board are purely ministerial in their nature, and that it must count the vote precisely as it is certified to it by the county clerks. Justice Gray, of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, who is now an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, speaking for a unanimous court, in the case of Clark vs. Board of Canvassers, said the duties of the Canvassing Board were confined to a question of "indefinite arithmetic," and that the board was not empowered to count for L. Clark votes returned for Leonard Clark. Likewise, the Supreme Court of Maine, in an opinion concurred in by all the justices, held that votes returned for J. Smith could not be counted for John Smith. Decisions of appellate courts in other States, not necessary to cite, confirm those mentioned.

The State Board also declined to consider an alleged amended abstract of the vote of Buckingham county filed with it by Mr. Yost on the morning it convened to begin the canvass, on the ground that when once the County Commissioners of Election have met and canvassed the vote of a county, the commissioners are "functus officio" and cannot, of their own motion, reconvene. Our own Court of Appeals laid down this rule in the case of McKim vs. Peers, Clark, J., Va., 82, following a long line of decisions of other courts. Indeed, in some of the States it is held that the County Canvassing boards cannot be reconvened even by command of the writ of mandamus, and if so reconvened, their acts are a nullity. This is notably so in Minnesota.

Guided by the principle aforesaid the Board of State Canvassers of Virginia declined to count for J. Yost votes returned for Jacob Yost; and for James W. Marshall votes returned for J. W. Marshall and J. M. Marshall; and for Charles M. Wallace, Jr., votes returned for C. M. Wallace, C. W. Wallace, etc., etc.

From these decisions of the board counsel for Mr. Yost appealed, and petitioned the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia for a mandamus to compel the State Board to count the differentiating votes for the same person, or to accept this amended abstract in lieu of the one originally received. This the court, negatively, refused to do, by omitting to pass on that petition; and, instead, suggesting to counsel for Mr. Yost the proper mode of procedure—namely, by mandamus against the Commissioners of Election of Buckingham county, to compel them to send to the Board of State Canvassers an amended abstract of the vote cast in that county, which would be a correct copy of the original on file in the Clerk's office of said county. This was done, and the abstract sent to the State Board, in obedience to the court's order, was, by command of the court, counted in place of the two abstracts previously before the board. Here the court, by strong inference, further sustained the previous action of the State Board; as the last abstract, which the court said was the true abstract, contained 1173 votes for J. Yost and 90 votes for Jake Yost; and they were so counted.

We are also asked why the State Board did not count the votes contained in this abstract until mandamus by the court. A moment's reflection will answer. Including the one just mentioned, there were at the time of its receipt three abstracts of the vote of Buckingham county before the board, each different from the other, and two of them claimed by Mr. Yost, at various times, to be the true abstract. The court had then pending before it petitions for a mandamus to compel the State Board to count the votes in the amended abstract first received from Buckingham county, and also to compel it to count for J. Yost the votes in the original abstract, which were returned for Jacob Yost. But on these petitions the court had not acted. Being unable to anticipate the decision of the court, the State Board was in a quandary to know which was the true abstract, and out of an abundance of caution, it was deemed best to inform the court of its dilemma, and request it to indicate by a formal order the particular abstract which it considered to represent the true vote of Buckingham county. To do this, Attorney-General Scott, who had been prevented by sickness from attending the sessions of the board, was telegraphed for, but before his arrival, the order was entered on motion of petitioner's counsel. It is worthy of remark, that Attorney-General Scott, on his arrival, concurred fully in the views of the majority of the board, and endorsed the position they had maintained throughout.

The trouble originated in the several counties in making up the "abstracts" of votes, which were canvassed by the board. As a matter of fact, there can be no doubt that in the election all of the electors received the same number of BALLOTS, or substantially the same; and the record as finally made up would so indicate, if the statements (or "abstracts," as they are technically called) sent to the Board of State Canvassers had been properly made out in each county and city.

JINGOISM RUN MAD.

We are not surprised at the statement we find in a special from Washington that no one in administration circles will find an authorized denial the latest charges against the President and Secretary-of-State Olney touching the administration's Cuban policy. These charges allege a lack of sympathy with the Cuban patriots and a deal between Mr. Olney and the Spanish authorities whereby the influence and the power of the United States are to be exerted to crush the insurgents if they refuse to accept the reforms offered by Spain.

We are no apologist for Mr. Cleveland,

but we regard this attempt to crystallize public sentiment and to inflame Congress against him in the matter of the settlement of the Cuban question as a case of Jingolism run mad. We have frequently of late had occasion to differ with the President. Considering the honors that have been heaped upon him by the Democratic party, his course during the last campaign was one of the most "shining examples" of inconsistency that have ever developed in American politics. But his course in respect of Cuba has been consistent from the beginning. Moreover, it has been consistent with conservatism and good sense.

Whatever may be the trend of Mr. Cleveland's individual sympathies as between Cuba and Spain, in his Cuban policy he has, within conservative lines, represented the sympathy of the masses of this country, which is with the insurgents. Altruism, which is with the insurgents, though he ignored—as he had a right to do—the concurrent Cuban resolution of April last, he made in his last annual message and which, in a sense, at least, reflected the opinion of sentiment as expressed in the debates on the resolution. Before preparing the message in question, he presumably canvassed the whole situation in Cuba with General Fitzhugh Lee, and in his reference to the Cuban question in the document uttered a positive warning to Spain that the United States could not permit existing conditions to continue on the island much longer. Indeed, so positive was this warning and so indicative of sympathy with and encouragement to the insurgents was it considered, that surprise was expressed that it did not produce serious friction between Madrid and Washington.

In dealing with the Cuban question, Mr. Cleveland has pursued the policy of making haste slowly. At no time has he compromised his self-respect as a nation, yet he has not failed to recognize that any summary steps we may take ought to be clearly defensible before the court of other civilized Powers. Had he yielded to congressional jingoism, and leaped before looking, as Congress seemed determined to force him to do, the country might ere this have been plunged into a war that not only could we not have justified, but which would at this particular juncture have proved disastrous to every business interest. In this view it is especially desirable that we should think seriously before attempting to invade Congress, as the above charges are intended to do, to another outbreak of jingoism.

There seems to be a singular absence of fatality about Maceo's deaths.

A New-Year Exception.

Time works a compulsion I can't quite approve. Tho' fixed in this, dictatorial groove—I mean that compulsion which forces us to be "off with the old love and on with the new."

There is much of the old we would like to retain. Acquaintanceships, loves, we'd prefer should remain. A meeting with pleasures that cause us to rue Being "off with the old love and on with the new."

But, alas, one exception this edict doth know, Which fills to o'erbrimming our tankard of woe— 'Tis this: That it doesn't some method disclose To make its compulsion apply to our clothes.

The Parson's Jest.

The parson poked his fee And said with doleful frown, "The matrimonial snags do not Just now fleet sailing frown."

Then, as the leaves of parish book, He turned, and well did scan 'em, He added, "By the record 'tis About one knot per annum."

After Christmas.

Let others fill up with elation and sing Of the sweet by-and-by that the future's in store, At present my wild gratulations I fling, At the dear buy-and-bury that's so happily o'er.

Merciful, Yet Effective.

Tramp: Madam, do you remember, about six months since, giving to a gent of my profession, and not altogether unlike me in contour and habiliments, a good-sized piece of lemon pie?

Madam: Quite distinctly. Are you that man?

Tramp: No, madam. I am that man's executor, and I call upon you now in the interest of mercy. That man died so calmly, and yet so instantaneously, after eating that pie, that I am moved to ask you for the recipe of that sample of pastry, my object being to submit it to the State authorities as a means of insuring the most humane and effective method of capital punishment yet discovered.

An Eye to Business.

Employee: Well, my day's job is over, and I don't want any more of it. I never tried to ride a more fractious horse than that; he threw me at least a dozen times.

Employer: Well, I can't pay you for a full day, of course. According to your own acknowledgment, you have been "off" a good deal of the time.

The True Ring.

He: To prove the sincerity of my intentions as a suitor, I have brought with me this solitary adornment for your engagement finger.

She: I must say, my friend, that your speech has the true ring.

Another Failure.

Suitor: I called this evening, Miss Shock, to ask you to be my wife.

Miss Shock: I am sorry to say, my friend, that you have made a mistake in your calling.

As the census enumerator walked away from the maiden lady he had just interviewed, he remarked: "I only took up with this task a day or two ago, and yet it seems to me that I have been in it for ages untold."

"A pair sometimes beats three of a kind," said the exhausted father, as he called on grandpa and Uncle Tom to renew their efforts at quelling the riotous twins.

No telegraphic feat can be esteemed complete without the light, fantastic too.

No matter how raw the day, the weather crank never fails to roast it.

Even a bachelor sometimes has paternal obligations.

Let's Hear All Sides.

(From Yesterday's State.)

The Dispatch, in this morning's issue, in a double-headed editorial, under the head of "Adjourn From Talk to Work," advocates the formation of an organization here, with a capital of \$100,000, to promote the establishment of manufacturing plants, first, that we are in earnest in our endeavor to increase our manufactures; and, second, it would show that the projectors of the new enterprises would receive the encouragement and help here they still need.

As the State has before said, there is no question of the need of increased manufactures, giving employment to additional workmen.

This problem, however, how such manufacturing can be best secured, and what method should be pursued in a united effort to aid and promote their establishment.

While there are some who seem to think that the best way would be to organize a company, with a capital stock of \$100,000, the business of which company should be to look into the practical advantages which Richmond possesses for profitable manufacturing in various lines; aid and foster the encouragement of such manufactures by enlisting the interest of experienced manufacturers in establishing plants here, and furnishing them with small loans, and such other ways as may seem best to the power of the organization; there are a number of others who think that the question should be left to the Chamber of Commerce, and that it should employ a man of practical ability, to the position of a salary of \$1000 or \$1500 a year, whose business it would be to look into all ways and means for establishing additional plants; should find out what manufacturing would pay best; and then visit the practical men in other parts of the country, and make reports and recommendations to the Chamber of Commerce, leaving it to the Chamber of Commerce to secure the needed aid through its members.

The State is not wedded to any particular method of procedure, but it believes that Richmond has advantages for manufacturing in many lines unsurpassed by any other city in the United States, and that all that is needed to increase the pay-rolls of manufacturing establishments in the city is a concerted, determined action upon the part of our leading representative citizens, who are interested in the business, growth, and development of Richmond.

The Choate-Platt Contest.

(Albany Argus.)

While it is still uncertain whether Mr. Platt will be United States senator, it is now certain that Choate will not. In his latest statement, the boss declared: "I am satisfied that Mr. Choate will not be the next senator. Whoever it shall be, it will not be Mr. Choate." Platt, however, on his side, declared for Washington life, but added, significantly, that "since the present fight has been made on the lines drawn, the situation presents itself in a different light"—that is to say, he is very likely to take the practical method of resigning his seat to teach the Mugwumps and the anti-machine bunglers a thing or two. Thus, it would appear that the remarkable new code of military tactics, devised by the anti-Platt Republicans, of first letting the enemy fight himself, and then making a fight, distinguished chiefly by noise and clamor, are likely to result in forcing Platt and Payne, in sheer self-defense, to take the place offered them. Meaningless, the Republican Club, therefore, considered a true action and offspring of the Union League, has refused overwhelmingly to approve Senator Payne's resolution endorsing Choate. Instead, the club adopted a resolution declaring it to be improper to endorse the candidacy of any man not already nominated by the Republican party, thereby virtually censuring the Choate contingent. Various spicy allusions to Platt's rule, and the scathing attacking thereby were heaped down by the rampant Platt element in the club, and declared out of order by its president. The boast of the Platt men that they had destroyed, they were strong enough to have crushed Platt himself, was apparently well-warranted.

On the same day, Edmund H. Wetmore, resigned as president of the newly-formed Seneca Falls Civic Club, of businessmen. Mr. Wetmore declared his resignation not to be due to any attraction of his belief that Choate is the fittest candidate; but, notwithstanding his denial, it is reasonable to suppose that he and other wet blanket in a quarter where the blue mould of dampness is already only too perceptible.

The Cuban Machete.

(Hudson Telegraph.)

The news from Cuba is full of references to the machete, which leads a reader of the Telegraph to rise to this point of information:

"If you will tell exactly what a 'machete' is by the Cuban patriots, you will oblige a subscriber, I have never seen a description of it in print." The machete may be described as a combination of Bowie knife, butcher's cleaver, broadsword, and sword, and is usually very sharp, but the back of the weapon is broad and very heavy, after the fashion of the Bowie knife. In some instances the back is weighted with some heavier metal than steel. While the machete is a heavy weapon, it is usually so nicely balanced that it is easily handled.

It is not primarily a weapon of war, but a clearing away of the dense underbrush found in all tropical and semi-tropical forests, and has many other uses in the ordinary domestic economy of the West Indian, Central, and South American peasant.

To the class of Cubans which comprise the main body of the insurgent armies the machete is as familiar as the pocket knife to the average American, and they are wonderfully expert in its management, either as an implement for the farmer, as a tool of the woodsman, or as a fearfully effective weapon of war. For deadly work in hand-to-hand fighting, it is the most useful and the superior of the Bowie knife, and wielded by an expert, will slice through flesh and bone as easily as a circular saw cuts its way through a pine log.

If our correspondent will picture to himself a butcher's cleaver, the width of